76. (Amended) The catalyst-ceramic body according to claim 73, wherein said catalyst component includes at least one component selected from the group consisting of metals having a catalyst activity and metal oxides having a catalyst activity.

77. (Amended) The catalyst-ceramic body according to claim 76, wherein said metals having a catalyst activity are noble metals and said metal oxides having a catalyst activity are oxides containing at least one metal selected from the group consisting of V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Sn, and Pb.

78. (Amended) The catalyst-ceramic body according to claim 73, wherein said ceramic support has a multiple number of fine pores with a diameter or width of 0.1 to 100nm on the surface of the ceramic support.

80. (Amended) A catalyst-ceramic body comprising a ceramic support comprising a honeycomb structure comprising at least as a main component a cordierite composition, wherein at least one of Si, Al and Mg elements constituting the cordierite composition being replaced by a metal having a catalyst activity.

83. (Amended) The catalyst-ceramic body according to claim 80, wherein said metal having a catalyst activity includes at least one material from the group consisting of noble metals, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Sn, and Pb.

84. (Amended) The catalyst-ceramic body according to claim 80, wherein said honeycomb structure has at least one of oxygen vacancies and lattice defects in the cordierite crystal lattice, on which a catalyst component is supported.

87. (Amended) A process for producing a catalyst-ceramic body, comprising:

preparing cordierite materials comprising an Si source, an Al source and a Mg source as well as a binder, some of said Si, Al and Mg sources being replaced by a noble metal-containing compound,

forming said cordierite materials into a honeycomb shape,

heating said honeycomb shape to remove said binder, and

firing said honeycomb shape in a reduced pressure atmosphere at a pressure of not higher than 4000 Pa, a reducing atmosphere, an oxygen-containing atmosphere or an

oxygen-free atmosphere to form a catalyst-ceramic body comprising a ceramic support of a honeycomb structure comprising at least as a main component of a cordierite composition.

88. (Amended) A process for producing a catalyst-ceramic body, comprising:

preparing cordierite materials comprising an Si source, an Al source and a Mg source as well as a binder, some of said Si, Al and Mg sources being replaced by a noble metal-containing compound and a Ce-containing compound,

forming said cordierite materials into a honeycomb shape,

heating said honeycomb shape to remove said binder, and

firing said honeycomb shape in a reduced pressure atmosphere at a pressure of not higher than 4000 Pa, a reducing atmosphere, an oxygen-containing atmosphere or an oxygen-free atmosphere to form a catalyst-ceramic body comprising a ceramic support of a honeycomb structure comprising at least as a main component of a cordierite composition.

89. (Amended) The process according to claim 87, wherein said fired honeycomb structure is further heated to a predetermined temperature and then rapidly cooled from said predetermined temperature.

90. (Amended) The process according to claim 87, wherein said fired honeycomb structure is further rapidly cooled to a predetermined temperature during cooling from a firing temperature.

92. (Amended) The process according to claim 87, wherein said fired honeycomb structure is further subjected to a shock wave.

94. (Amended) A process for producing the catalyst-ceramic body as set forth in claim 73, comprising depositing at least one of a catalyst component and a precursor of a catalyst component on said ceramic support by one of a CVD and PVD method.

95. (Amended) A process for producing the catalyst-ceramic body as set forth in claim 73, comprising depositing at least one of a catalyst component and a precursor of a catalyst component on said ceramic support by means of a super critical fluid.

96. (Amended) A process for producing the catalyst-ceramic body as set forth in claim 73, comprising depositing at least one of a catalyst component and a precursor of a catalyst component on said ceramic support by means of a solvent having a surface tension smaller than water.

97. (Amended) A process for producing the catalyst-ceramic body as set forth in claim 73, comprising depositing at least one of a catalyst component and a precursor of a catalyst component on said ceramic support by means of a solvent having a surface tension smaller than water while applying one of vibration and performing vacuum defoaming.

98. (Amended) A process for producing the catalyst-ceramic body as set forth in claim 73, comprising depositing a precursor of a catalyst component on said ceramic support followed by a heat treatment.

99. (Amended) A process for producing the catalyst-ceramic body as set forth in claim 73, comprising depositing a catalyst component a plurality of times using the same or different compositions.

102. (Amended) The catalyst-ceramic body according to claim 80, wherein said cordierite has a composition corresponding to a theoretical composition expressed by $2MgO \bullet 2Al_2O_3 \bullet 5SiO_3$.

103. (Amended) The process for producing a catalyst-ceramic body according to claim 89, wherein said cordierite has a composition corresponding to a theoretical composition expressed by $2MgO \bullet 2Al_2O_3 \bullet 5SiO_3$.

See the attached Appendix for the changes made to affect the above claims.